



September 7, 2017

Dale Rupp
AK Steel Middletown
1801 Crawford Street
Middletown, OH 45044

**Re: AK Steel Middletown
Notice of Violation (NOV)
Air Permit
Butler County
1409010006**

Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency

Subject: Notice of Violation

Dear Mr. Rupp:

On August 30, 2017, in response to a citizen complaint of particulate emissions, the Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency (SWOAQA) conducted off site observations for the facility located at 1801 Crawford Street, Middletown, OH 45044. SWOAQA completed a visible emission observation form for the No. 15 basic oxygen furnace (BOF). The goal of the observation was to determine the facility's compliance with Ohio's Division of Air Pollution Control's laws as found in Chapter 3704 of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) and Chapter 3745 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) and the terms and conditions of AK Steel's Title V PTO P0096473 issued on November 1, 2004. Visible emissions were observed at the BOF (emissions unit P926).

Findings

SWOAQA observed the following violations of Ohio's ORC Chapter 3704, OAC Chapter 3745, 40 CFR Part 63, Subpart FFFFF and AK Steel Corporation' permit terms and conditions. In order to bring your facility into compliance, we recommend promptly addressing this violation within 30 days of your receipt of this letter.

1. Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 3704.05(C): *"No person who is the holder of a permit issued under division (F) or (G) of section 3704.03 of the Revised Code shall violate any of its terms or conditions."*

OAC rule 3745-17-07(B)(1) *"visible particulate emissions from any fugitive dust source shall not exceed twenty per cent opacity as a three-minute average."*

40 CFR Part 63, Subpart FFFFF §63.7790(a) *"You must not cause to be discharged to the atmosphere any secondary emissions that exit any opening in the BOPF shop or any other building housing the BOPF or BOPF shop operation that exhibit opacity greater than 20 percent (3-minute average)."*

Permit terms and conditions: AK Steel Corporation, Facility ID #1409010006, Ohio EPA Title V permit number P0096473 effective January 3, 2005 for emission unit P926.

- (a) A USEPA Method 9 “Visual Determination Of Opacity emissions” was performed at AK Steel Corporation on 08/30/2017 from 10:47 a.m. – 10:59 a.m. by Ciara Oehring of SWOAQA of the BOF (emissions unit P926). The highest 3-minute average of visible particulate emissions from the BOF was 45.4%, which is greater than the 20% requirement from the permit and rules listed above. Attached is a photo illustrating the emissions observed.



Photo taken on 8/30/17 by SWOAQA inspector

- (b) *Requested action:*

Within 30 days of receipt of this letter, AK Steel Corporation shall submit a compliance plan to SWOAQA which will address how the facility will address the exceedances identified above. Please include a plan for the operations to prevent recurrence.

Conclusion

SWOAQA requests that AK Steel Corporation promptly undertake the necessary measures to return to compliance with Ohio's environmental laws and regulations. Within 30 days of receipt of this letter, please provide, to SWOAQA, the documentation requested above.

Failure to comply with Chapter 3704 of the Ohio Revised Code and rules promulgated thereunder may result in an administrative or civil penalty. If circumstances delay resolution of

violations, AK Steel Corporation is requested to submit written correspondence describing the steps that will be taken by date certain to attain compliance.

Please note that the submission of any requested information to respond to this letter does not constitute waiver of SWOAQA's authority to seek administrative or civil penalties as provided in Section 3704.06 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Thank you for your time and cooperation and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at (513) 946-7715 or by e-mail at ciara.oehring@hamilton-co.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ciara Oehring', with a stylized, cursive script.

Ciara Oehring

Environmental Compliance Specialist

Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency

A division of the Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services

ec: John Paulian/James Kavalec, DAPC/CO
Brian Dickens, USEPA Region V
Chris Potts, AK Steel